

ARAI to set up new facility at Chakan

The Automotive Research Association of India is setting up new structural dynamics lab and centre of excellence (CoE) for fatigue testing in the country at Chakan. The total investment for the project is of INR 210 crore. The laboratory will cover powertrain engineering. It will have advanced equipment for development of all types of powertrains including transmission for diesel, petrol, hybrid and green technologies.

The funding has come through the umbrella project called NATRiP Project (National Automotive Testing Infrastructure Project) of the Government of India. Along with this, the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) is also setting up inspection and certification test centres under Ministry of Road transport and Highways. The centres will be located at Nashik, Surat, Chindwara, Bangalore and Telengana.

Commenting on devising new safety



requirements and standards, Rashmi Urdhwarshie said, "Considering the importance of safety, ARAI is setting up a passive safety laboratory which will be operational by June 2015. It will be open for the industry to use it. This lab will have fully instrumented crash dummies, crash testing and data acquisition equipment, which are

very advanced. It can meet the requirements of full vehicle frontal crash, side crash, offset frontal crash, and also pedestrian safety. These are the new and upcoming regulations for India. This will help to develop safer vehicles for the Indian market."

ARAI has developed few testing facilities in its Pune campus. It includes tyre testing laboratory, the only facility after Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), seat testing with the help of Kuka Robot for developing seats especially for German auto manufacturers and highly accelerated life testing (HALT) for emission of commercial vehicles for air bag testing and advanced crash testing facility. Moreover, ARAI is developing a technology is association with University of Ohio for light weight forging which will help to reduce the total weight of any vehicle.

Shenmao Technology to invest NTD 800 mn in tin ingot factory

It is reported that Taiwan-based soldering material supplier Shenmao Technology will invest NTD 800 million to establish a factory for producing tin ingots. Construction of the factory will kick off before the Q2 of 2015.



Shenmao said that the new factory will initially output 300 tonne of tin ingots monthly. Shenmao indicated it currently purchases more than 500 tonne of tin ingots every month. The manufacture of tin ingots at the new factory will be able to meet more than half of the company's demand.

Shenmao added that its in-house tin ingot production will significantly reduce costs, as tin ingots occupy as high as 80% of the costs for making soldering materials. Shenmao is also looking to improve its product mix for better profitability, the company said. Shenmao has developed new products for IC packaging, such as bumping paste products and uBGA solder balls and products for high-end semiconductor manufacturing.

Horsehead makes progress at new zinc facility

Pittsburgh-based Horsehead Holding Corporation said that it was making progress on a ramping-up of its new zinc production facility in North Carolina that replaced a closed one in Monaca.



Horsehead said that the Mooresboro, N C, plant produced 12,000 tonne of zinc in the Q4, up significantly from the 4,300 tonne it had made in the Q3. More than 5,400 tonne were made in December alone with what Horsehead said was equipment reliability and process debottlenecking.

Mr. Jim Hensler, CEO of Horsehead, said, "We are encouraged by the progress made during the Q4 of 2014. We are particularly pleased that for extended periods in December, the facility operated near our estimated cash-flow breakeven level after cash interest expense of 230 tonne per day."

Mr. Hensler said, "While we still face potential risks, the team onsite is working diligently to continue to increase production and remains optimistic that the identified challenges can be mitigated or resolved. We are pleased with the progress being made and continue to believe this investment will achieve the previously stated financial performance goals."